

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-7, and 9-14 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 5, 7, 9, 10, and 12-14 have been amended hereby. Claims 4 and 8 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 9, 10, and 14 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of Claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,466,736 (“Chen”) in view of “PlayStation 2” September 13th, 2004, Wikipedia pages 1-3 (“Wikipedia”).

Independent Claim 1 has been amended in part to recite that:

(1) the entertainment apparatus reads information from a recording medium, determines operation mode based on the read information, generates an operation mode selection signal in accordance with the determined operation mode, and outputs the generated selection signal to the relay unit; the relay unit receives the selection signal;

(2) the relay unit includes a first relay processing unit (multitap IC 200-1), a second relay processing unit (multitap IC 200-2), and control signal generator (201);

(3) the first relay processing unit carries out relay processing for the first mode between the entertainment apparatus and the one or plurality of manipulation terminals or the external storage units;

(4) the second relay processing unit carries out relay processing for the second mode between the entertainment apparatus and the one or plurality of manipulation terminals or the external storage units; and

(5) the control signal generator operates one of the first and second relay units to carry out the relay processing based on the received selection signal.

Chen, at best understood, relates to an integrated DVD/CD controller having an architecture optimized for processing audio and video information in playback systems used for reproducing information stored on optical discs such as CDs and DVDs.

It is respectfully submitted that Chen fails to show or suggest the aforementioned features of amended independent Claim 1, in particular, the recited structure of the relay unit; and that Wikipedia fails to cure these deficiencies.

Thus, amended independent Claim 1 is submitted to be patentably distinct over the cited references.

Amended independent Claims 9, 10, and 14 recite features similar in many respects to the features discussed above with respect to Claim 1, and are submitted to be patentably distinct over the cited references for at least the same reasons as Claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent Claims 1, 9, 10, and 14, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentably distinct over Chen in view of Wikipedia.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

/Pedro C. Fernandez/
Pedro C. Fernandez
Reg. No. 41,741

CUSTOMER NUMBER 026304
Telephone: (212) 940-6311
Fax: (212) 940-8986 or 8987
Docket No.: SCEY 22.540 (100809-00325)
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